ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A personal computer [[(2)]] is responsive to the presence of an ~~authorised~~ authorized user to transmit release signals ~~from a~~ from one CPU ~~22 to a~~ to another CPU [[28]] to cause the latter CPU [[28]] to effect the release of a locking mechanism [[(34)]] controlling access to drawers of a desk or filing cabinet for example. In the absence of periodic refresher signals from the ~~PC 2~~ first CPU, the ~~CPU 28~~ second CPU causes the locking mechanism to lock the drawers to prevent ~~unauthorised~~ unauthorized access. The transmitted signals from the ~~PC 2~~ second CPU may also be used to prevent or allow use of electrical or electronic apparatuses and/or to control environmental conditions appropriate to the presence or absence of users.